

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 00076 081212Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 /062 W

----- 090723

R 080911Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 770

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE 76

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, SP

SUBJECT: MILITARY LEADERS WARN AGAINST POLITIZATION
OF ARMED FORCES

REF MADRID 7966

1. MINISTERS OF THREE ARMED FORCES HELD THEIR ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S RECEPTIONS JAN 4 FOR LEADING OFFICERS AT WHICH EACH MADE STATEMENTS REFLECTING PREOCCUPATION WITH TWO MAIN THEMES: (A) UNITY OF SERVICE BRANCHES, AND (B) IMPROPRIETY OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES. MINISTER OF ARMY, LT. GEN COLOMA, AFTER SAYING THAT ARMED FORCES WERE GUARANTEE OF STATE, WARNED THAT ARMED FORCES SHOULD EXERCISE "CONSTANT VIGILANCE AGAINST ACTION OF THOSE WHO, CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY, TRIED TO WEAKEN STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES BY PROVOKING DISUNION AMONG THEIR MEMBERS." COLOMA ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE DISHONEST TO BELONG TO AN INSTITUTION SUCH AS THE ARMED FORCES, WHICH WERE ABOVE THE FIELD OF POLITICAL COMPETITION, IF ONE FELT THAT HE COULD SERVE SPAIN BETTER BY SUPPORTING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 00076 081212Z

A "DEFINITE POLITICAL POSITION." ANYONE WHO HAD SUCH

POLITICAL PREOCCUPATIONS, HE SAID, WOULD SERVE SPAIN AND THE ARMED FORCES BETTER BY LEAVING THE LATTER'S RANKS.

2. MINISTER OF NAVY, ADMIRAL PITA DA VEIGA, TOLD RANKING OFFICERS OF HIS MINISTRY THAT ARMED FORCES WERE INVOLVED IN POLITICS BUT ONLY IN SENSE THAT THEY ACTED "TO DEFEND AN ORDER LINKED TO THE COMMON WELFARE OF THE NATION." IT BEHOVED MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES, HE SAID, TO SHOW DUE RESPECT FOR "ANY POLITICAL OPTION WHICH FITS INTO INSTITUTIONAL ORDER, IT BEING IMPROPER TO PARTICIPATE IN OR SHOW ANY PREFERENCE FOR ANY OF THEM (I.E. POLITICAL OPTIONS)."

3. MINISTER OF AIR FORCE, LT. GEN CUADRA MEDINA, SAID THAT MILITARY MEN WERE NOT LINKED "WITH ANY POLITICAL IDEOLOGY" WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD UNDERMINE DISCIPLINE.

4. FRANCO RECEIVED DELEGATIONS OF ARMED FORCES LED BY MINISTERS OF EACH BRANCH JAN 6 FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TWO DAYS OF HUNTING. IN HIS BRIEF REMARKS TO THEM FRANCO PRAISED THE ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR "UNITY AND MUTUAL INTERACTION (COMPENETRACION)." FRANCO REFERRED TO THE "ANARCHY, VIOLENCE AND LIBERTINAGE IN THE WORLD" AND EXHORTED ARMED FORCES TO MAINTAIN "DISCIPLINE AND UNITY". IN COMBATING THEM.

5. COMMENT: THE MINISTERS OF THE THREE SERVICE BRANCHES SEEM TO HAVE FOLLOWED THE SAME CUE IN UNDER-SCORING THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF SIMULTANEOUSLY SUBSCRIBING TO POLITICAL PARTIZANSHIP AND CONTINUING A MILITARY CAREER. FOR COLOMA, OCCASION WAS ONE MORE IN SERIES OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN RECENT MONTHS EXHORTING MILITARY TO REMAIN UNIFIED AND APOLITICAL. IN ABSENCE OF ANY OPEN EVIDENCE OF THE EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE ARMED FORCES, THE MINISTER'S STATEMENTS, WHILE INTENDED AS A WARNING TO WOULD-BE INSTIGATORS OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, HAS ALREADY BEEN INTERPRETED BY SOME OBSERVERS AS REVEALING THE EXISTENCE ALREADY OF SOME DEGREE OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT AMONG THE MILITARY. (SOURCE CLOSE TO FONMIN CORTINA SAID CORTINA HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 00076 081212Z

ABOUT COLOMA AND PITA STATEMENTS, PREDICTING THEY WOULD BE MISINTERPRETED ABROAD AS ADMISSIONS OF UNREST WITHIN MILITARY.)

6. IN AUDIENCE FOR THEIR REMARKS WERE SENIOR OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO SERVICE MINISTRIES AND SOME EX-MINISTERS AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS NOW IN RESERVE OR GROUP-B. SOME OF THESE OFFICERS ARE OPENLY ENGAGED IN POLITICS AS NATIONAL

COUNCILORS OF THE MOVEMENT, DEPUTIES IN THE "CORTES", OR AS PRESENT OR FORMER SERVICE MINISTERS. REMARKS WARNING AGAINST SUPPORTING A "DEFINITE POLITICAL POSITION" MAY WELL HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST SUCH MEN AS THOSE WHO NOW LEAD THE UNIFIED VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION, WHOSE DIRECTORS HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A PARTIAL INTERNAL BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, BUT ALSO WERE PROBABLY INTENDED TO WARN AGAINST ANY ACTIVE DUTY OFFICERS' PARTICIPATION IN PARTISAN POLITICAL ADVOCACY UNDER THE NEW DECREE PERMITTING POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

7. FROM STANDPOINT OF GOVT, IN PARTICULAR PREMIER ARIAS, EXPRESS ACQUIESCENCE OR ENDORSEMENT OF "ANY POLITICAL OPTION" (PITA DA VEIGA) BY SERVICE MINISTERS ADD UP TO IMPLICIT ACCEPTANCE BY ARMED FORCES OF EMERGENCE OF POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS AS PROVIDED IN NEW STATUTE SCHEDULED TO TAKE EFFECT JAN 12 (REFTEL). MILITARY LEADERS, IN THEIR NEW YEARS STATEMENTS, HAVE IN EFFECT DEFENDED PRINCIPLE OF POLITICAL PLURALISM IN CONFORMITY WITH BASIC LAWS, BUT LIMITED ITS SCOPE TO NON-MILITARY SECTORS OF POPULATION.

EATON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL FREEDOM, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID00076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750007-0616
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750170/aaaacjdb.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 7966
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY LEADERS WARN AGAINST POLITIZATION OF ARMED FORCES
TAGS: PINS, MILI, SP, (ARIAS NAVARRO, CARLOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006